

Martz
10/813,982

REMARKS

Claim 29 was rejected as being anticipated by D'Hussier 4,982,450.

Claim 30 was rejected as being unpatentable over D'Hussier in view of Ono 4,917,920.

D'Hussier discloses a protective device for temporary use by a person trying on garments. The device consists of an elongated, disposable thin flexible sheet of liquid impervious material with a liquid absorptive material on one side facing the wearer and a tough sheet of polyolefin on an opposite side. The front end of the thin sheet is enlarged to form a T (that is, enlarged) as described in the patent. The layers are thermobonded to each other (col. 2, lines 13-15) so that they in effect are inseparable. In the present invention, absorbent pad 34 is attached to strap 31 by an adhesive patch 35, so that, as explained in page 12 of the specification, pad 34 can be removed and replaced, while elastic fabric strap is washable and reusable.

Ono was cited for the teaching of the use of a fragrance in undergarment materials.

In view of the art cited by the Examiner, claim 29 has been amended to recite that the strap is washable and reusable, and is of substantially uniform width over its whole length and that the absorbent pad is mounted by adhesive on a central portion of the strap. This is believed to be a clear distinction over D'Hussier for the reasons given above.

In addition, a new claim 31, dependent on claim 29, has been added calling for the absorbent pad to be disposable and the strap to be reusable. This is even a further distinction over D'Hussier.

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In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims in their present form, distinguish over the above references and should be allowed.

A favorable action is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION

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Date: June 22, 2006



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